

Please type a plus sign (+) inside the box →

PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002, OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

Application Number	09/491,581
Filing Date	January 25, 2000
First Named Inventor	Shigeto Igarashi
Group Art Unit	2612
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	2811

RECEIVED

2800 MAIL ROOM

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

RECEIVED

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

- Fee Transmittal Form
- Fee Attached
- Amendment / Reply
- After Final
- Affidavits/declaration(s)
- Extension of Time Request
- Express Abandonment Request
- Information Disclosure Statement
- Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
- Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53

- Assignment Papers (for an Application)
- Drawing(s)
- Licensing-related Papers
- Petition
- Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application
- Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address
- Terminal Disclaimer
- Request for Refund
- CD, Number of CD(s) _____

- After Allowance Communication to Group
- Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
- Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
- Proprietary Information
- Status Letter
- Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):

Petition To Make Special Under Rule 102(d)

Remarks

RECEIVED

JUN 5 2001

Technology Center 2600

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name

David O'Reilly

Signature

Date

May 17, 2001

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: May 17, 2001

Typed or printed name

David O'Reilly, Reg. No. 26,102

Signature

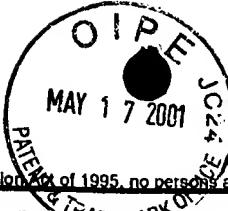
Date

May 17, 2001

Express Mail Label Number: EL405906092US
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL, postage prepaid, under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington D.C. 20231.
Date: May 17, 2001

By:

David O'Reilly, Reg. No. 26,102



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2001

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$ 130.00)

Complete If Known

Application Number	09/491,581
Filing Date	January 25, 2000
First Named Inventor	Shigeto Igarashi
Examiner Name	
Group Art Unit	2612
Attorney Docket No.	2811

METHOD OF PAYMENT

1. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to:

Deposit Account Number **15-0640**
Deposit Account Name **David O'Reilly**

Charge Any Additional Fee Required
Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17

Applicant claims small entity status.
See 37 CFR 1.27

2. Payment Enclosed:

Check Credit card Money Order Other

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity	Small Entity	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101	710	201	355	Utility filing fee	
106	320	206	160	Design filing fee	
107	490	207	245	Plant filing fee	
108	710	208	355	Reissue filing fee	
114	150	214	75	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

Total Claims	Independent Claims	Multiple Dependent	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
			-20** =	X	=
			-3** =	X	=

Large Entity	Small Entity	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description
103	18	203	9	Claims in excess of 20
102	80	202	40	Independent claims in excess of 3
104	270	204	135	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
109	80	209	40	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
110	18	210	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$)

*or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity	Small Entity	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105	130	205	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127	50	227	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139	130	139	130	Non-English specification	
147	2,520	147	2,520	For filing a request for <i>ex parte</i> reexamination	
112	920*	112	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113	1,840*	113	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115	110	215	55	Extension for reply within first month	
116	390	216	195	Extension for reply within second month	
117	890	217	445	Extension for reply within third month	
118	1,390	218	695	Extension for reply within fourth month	
128	1,890	228	945	Extension for reply within fifth month	
119	310	219	155	Notice of Appeal	
120	310	220	155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121	270	221	135	Request for oral hearing	
138	1,510	138	1,510	Petition to Institute a public use proceeding	
140	110	240	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141	1,240	241	620	Petition to revive - unintentional	
142	1,240	242	620	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143	440	243	220	Design issue fee	
144	600	244	300	Plant issue fee	
122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	130.00
123	50	123	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(d)	
126	180	126	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581	40	581	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146	710	246	355	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
149	710	249	355	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
179	710	279	355	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169	900	169	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	
Other fee (specify) _____					
*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid					SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ 130.00)

SUBMITTED BY

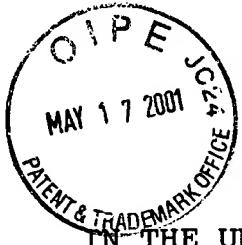
Complete (if applicable)

Name (Print/Type)	David O'Reilly	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	26,102	Telephone	(805)446-2759
Signature				Date	May 17, 2001

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

RECEIVED
JUN 5 2001
Technology Center 2600



RECEIVED

JUN 5 2001

Technology Center 2600

47-14
BA/6/14

Docket No. 2811

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Shigeto Igarashi

Group Art Unit: 2612

Serial No: 09/491,581

Filed: January 25, 2000

For: SIGNAL AMPLIFYING CIRCUIT IN CCD CAMERA

Westlake Village, CA

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER RULE 102(d)

JUN - 6 2001

Sir:

Applicant in the above-identified application ~~TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600~~
requests advancement of the examination of the application under
Rule 102(d).

The undersigned, David O'Reilly, declares that he is the attorney of record in the above-identified pending patent application. That he is the attorney for applicant Shigeto Igarashi and is completely familiar with the invention disclosed and claimed in the application.

The invention is an electronic signal amplifying circuit for use with a charge coupled device (CCD) to broaden the range illumination to approximately 0.02 lux for recording images or taking photographs. In low light conditions, the amplification is increased with the signal to noise (S/N) ratio being ignored by automatically inserting an amplifying circuit that ignores

136.09 3.

1

Express Mail Label Number: EL405906092US
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL, postage prepaid, under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington D.C. 20231.
Date: May 17, 2001

By: David O'Reilly, Reg. No. 26,102

the S/N until it reaches a predetermined value. When there is sufficient light conditions image recording or photograph are recorded at a high S/N ratio and a high degree of amplification.

All the claims in the application are limited to a single invention of an auxiliary amplifying circuit for use in low light conditions. The dependent claims are to variations of the system with the auxiliary amplifier such as the use of detectors to decide when to use the low light auxiliary amplifier.

A pre-examination search was made in Classes 348 subclass 255, and Classes 300, 301, 366, and 707. The references found in the thorough and complete search are listed in the attached form List of Prior Art Cited. Copies of these references are enclosed and are in addition to the references disclosed in the Disclosure To The Examiner filed May 30, 2000 incorporated herein by reference.

U.S. Patent No. 3,777,056 of Pieters removes glare by developing a reference value. The reference value is then compared with an amplifier output. The white amplitude level is clamped if there is glare.

U.S. Patent No. 4,884,140 of Park discloses a circuit to compensate for vignetting. Vignetting is a phenomenon of brightness at the circumference becoming lower than the central brightness. The patent compensates by obtaining parabolic waveform voltages, adding the voltages and using the added voltages to control amplification.

U.S. Patent No. 5,455,685 of Mori describes an exposure control device. The patent detects and integrates values representing the average light and then controls the operation of the iris and amplification to control exposure.

U.S. Patent No. 5,610,654 of Parulski et al discloses an automated exposure control system that uses a variable amplifier. A microprocessor controls the output of a programmable amplifier from values in a look-up table or by use of an algorithm.

U.S. Patent No. 5,614,948 of Hannah discloses a gain control amplifier having controls by applying various levels of gain to an image. The amplification of the gain control amplifier is continually updated by a processor which may be a computer that provides real time gain settings to the gain control amplifier.

U.S. Patent No. 5,742,340 of Alves discloses compensation to an automatic gain control amplifier using a fiber optic link. Fiber optic link 13 provides a reference voltage from a light sensing array to adjust AGC circuit 20.

U.S. Patent No. 5,978,024 of Lee discloses a system to compensate for "blooming". Blooming is a phenomena that occurs when a photo diode receives light having too high intensity. An anti-blooming circuit comprised of a DC stage 71, an input stage 72, and an anti-blooming stage 73 provides an output that

increases or decreases the bias on CCD 60.

None of the patents discuss above or the references cited in the Disclosure to the Examiner filed May 30, 2000 teach or suggest a circuit for low light conditions that amplifies the signal while ignoring the signal to noise (S/N) ratio and then switching to higher signal to noise amplification when there is sufficient bright light as described in the claims.

The undersigned declares further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Please charge the cost of this Petition to Deposit Account No. 15-0640.

Consideration and approval of this petition is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



David O'Reilly
Registration No. 26,102
Attorney for Applicant

Dated: May 17, 2001

DO'R/en

Enclosures

Make all calls to: (805) 446-2759

1800 Bridgegate St., #200
Westlake Village, CA 91361